UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

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3. Missouri State Historical Su 1976-77 Department of Natural Resour P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65	rces	state



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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Payne-Gentry House, 4211 Fee Fee Road, Bridgeton, Missouri, is a one-story, red brick, vernacular-style cottage with an irregular plan. The center portion of the house (perpendicular to Fee Fee Road) has two projecting wings: a north wing extending from the west half and a south wing jutting from the east half.

EXTERIOR

Over-all dimensions

Over-all dimensions of the Payne-Gentry House are 67'5" (north-south) and 52'6.5" (east-west).

Constructions materials and colors

Red brick walls, laid in common bond, are supported by a brick foundation; the foundation is recessed under the upper walls approximately the width of one brick. All roof surfaces are covered with cut cedar shingles. Wood painted white is used for the porches, the west addition, window and doorway frames, and doors; the wood shutters are painted green.

Openings

Windows. There are five basement (or ground story) windows. They are typically rectangular in shape, varying in size depending on the depth of the basement (or ground story) at that point. Each has two lights; ornamentation consists of jack-arched, brick voussoirs and lugsills (west facade of the north wing).

First-story windows are rectangular in shape with segmental-arched heads. Each is filled by a two-over-two light, double-hung sash. Jack-arched, brick voussoirs and stone lugsills trim each window opening; shutters flank each side. Three, one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows pierce the south wall bay extension of the south wing. Each individual window is trimmed in a manner identical to other first-story window ornamentation. The remaining window occurs on the east facade of the center portion of the house. A heavy wood mullion separates two, narrow, one-over-one light, double-hung sash; framing of the opening is again identical to that of other first-story windows.

Attic ventilation is by way of three, round-arched openings (filled by louvered shutters) contained in each gable apex. These openings are trimmed by brick voussoirs and stone lugsills. A fourth opening is rectangular in shape and filled by a six-light sash. Positioned on the north gable apex, vertical brick voussoirs trim its upper edge.

<u>Doorways.</u> Seven entrances provide access to the Payne-Gentry House. The main entrance is contained in the northernmost bay of the east facade of the south wing. The single-leaf door of wood and glass is topped by a two-light transom. The glass panels are etched with floral designs.

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PAYNE-GENTRY

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

Positioned in the southernmost bay of the east facade of the north wing is the entrance to the kitchen. This doorway is identical to the main entrance. A second doorway (into the first-floor caretaker's apartment north of the kitchen) has double-leaf, wood and glass doors. The same trim is repeated here.

Two rear doorways lead into the hall and dining room. The hall entrance is filled by a four-panel, single-leaf, wood door. Jack-arched, brick voussoirs trim the upper edge of the opening. The dining room doorway is similar to that of the front entrance; the transom has, however, been omitted.

A sixth entrance is centered at ground level on the north facade of the north wing. It provides access to the doctor's office.

Assess to the crawl space under the center portion and the south wing is by way of a trap door at the west end of the south facade of the center portion.

Porches

Most entrances are protected by porches or shelters; an exception is the rear hall entry which opens directly onto an unprotected stairway with railing.

Porches span the width of the east facades of the north and south wings. Each has square, wood posts supporting a shed roof. Posts of the south-wing porch have been ornamented with "capitals." Wood steps lead up to each porch. Lattice panels skirt the underside of the south-wing porch.

The rear porch occupies about half of the west addition which spans the west facades of the center portion and north wing. This porch protects the dining room entrance. Square posts support a shed roof. Railings frame the porch edges and extend down each side of the stairs.

An enclosed, frame structure shelters the entrance to the doctor's office.

Roofs

Gable roofs cover each portion of the house intersecting each other at right angles.

Chimneys

Four, brick chimneys service the Payne-Gentry House. Each has a single stack. Those straddling the roof ridges have several corbeled courses just below the upper edge; the remaining chimney has no embellishment and extends above the west slope of the north wing roof near the west wall.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

2

West addition

The west addition includes the basement storage area (ground story) and the bath and kitchen of the caretaker's apartment, a second bath, and the rear porch at the first story level. Horizontal wood siding encloses the upper portion (first story); lattice panels face the concrete basement walls (ground story).

Decorative details

Decorative features include: 1) window and doorway trim (already discussed), 2) wood ornamentation of the porches (previously described), and 3) boxed cornices. The plain freize embellishing the cornices has been omitted on the rear (west) facade.

INTERIOR

Basement (or ground story)

A single room equipped as a doctor's office occupies the ground floor of the north wing; a storage room (not original) opens off the west wall of the doctor's office. A crawl space is under the remainder of the house.

Vertical boards sheath the wall surfaces of the doctor's office; the floor and ceiling are covered in a like manner. Windows are trimmed by a frame of boards applied to the wall surface; there are no sills. An enclosed stairway in the southwest corner provides access to the first floor.

First Floor

The center portion of the Payne-Gentry House includes three rooms (two bedrooms and a dining room), each opening into the other from east to west. The wings mirror each other in arrangement and size of rooms: a parlor and hall (south wing) and caretaker's apartment and kitchen (north wing).

A variety of finishes cover the plaster walls: alabestine (a good grade of white wash) for the parlor, wallpaper for the hall and middle bedroom of the center portion, and paint for the front bedroom of the center portion, dining room, and kitchen. Classic-style woodwork (doorway and window frames and baseboards) are either painted or rose in mahagony (a technique producing a grained effect). Floors in all rooms but the dining room are of random width cedar tongue and groove. Only two rooms have fireplaces (the parlor and front bedroom of the center portion); each has a castiron mantel.

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DATE ENTERED

PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE '

Some original furnishings remain; most pieces of furniture are, however, of the period or once belonged to other family members. The lace curtains, although not original, are similar to those described in the diaries of Mary Elizabeth Payne and her daughter Mary Lee Gentry.

Att<u>ic</u>

An attic covers the entire house. The heating and cooling system was installed in its space during the 1968-1972 renovation.

ALTERATIONS

The original house (center portion and south wing) was built in 1870. Alterations to that basic structure include:

- 1. 1800
 - a. addition of the north wing to house Will Payne's office (basement or ground story) and bedroom (above on the first floor)
- 2. 1903 (1904)
 - a. addition of a bath
 - b. addition of a screened-in porch
- 3. 1968-1972
 - a. removal of 1903 (1904) additions
 - b. reduction in size of the rear porch to add a bath west of the kitchen
 - c. addition of the basement storage room along the west wall of the doctor's office
 - d. renovation of the bedroom above the doctor's office for the live-in caretaker
 - e. installation of a concrete wall to form the outer wall of the basement storage room (replaces wood posts which originally supported the rear porch at this point)
 - f. installation of a new heating and cooling system in the attic. 2

CONDITION

The Payne-Gentry House is in excellent condition.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

SITE

No outbuildings remain; a garden presently occupies the location of the original barn at the rear of the house. A well house is at the southwest corner of the center portion of the house.

The Payne-Gentry House is surrounded by 27 acres of parkland, which made up part of the original Post, Long, and Payne families' estate. Development of Fee Fee Road has brought about the construction of numerous residential structures of mid-twentieth century vintage; these homes line the east side of the road, opposite the Payne-Gentry House.

PRESENT STATUS

The Payne-Gentry House was restored to its 1880 appearance between 1969 (date of purchase by the City of Bridgeton) and 1972 (date dedicated). With guidance from architect William B. Lane, much of the actual work of restoration was completed by volunteers. The home is presently open for tours.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Interview with Mrs. Doris Baruzzini and Mrs. Juanita Brookman, Bridgeton Historical Society, Bridgeton, Missouri, September 17, 1976.
- 2. Ibid.
- 3. Ibid.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Surviving in near original condition, the Payne-Gentry House, 4211 Fee Fee Road, Bridgeton, Missouri, is significant as the home of Elbridge Payne and his family which included the town doctor (Will Payne) and schoolmistress (Mary Lee Payne Gentry). Until 1968, the home remained in the ownership of the family heirs; today it is restored and houses one of the few preserved early doctor's offices in Missouri.

The Payne-Gentry House is an example of the brick residences built in Bridgeton during the latter half of the 19th century. It was built in 1870 as the summer home of Elbridge and Mary Elizabeth Payne on land given by Mrs. Payne's family. The north wing, housing Will Payne's office, was added in 1880. The home later became the permanent residence of various Payne family members.

<u>History</u>

Elbridge (Gerry) Payne was born in Christian County, Kentucky, on March 18, 1818. His "fortune" was made from the ownership of several stores in St. Louis, Peducah, Kentucky, and Memphis, Tennessee; he and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Long (October 25, 1832 - June 1, 1896), traveled by steamboat between the stores. Children of this union were William Elbridge and Mary Lee. Payne died on May 20, 1874.

William Elbridge Payne was born on July 24, 1856. Educated at the local school in Bridgeton, St. Louis Medical College, and Bellview (New York), Dr. Will Payne opened his office in the north wing of the family home. He died on November 11, 1897 at the age of 41.8

His sister, Mary Lee, was born on May 30, 1869. Like her brother, she attended the local school before going onto Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. On leaving, Mary Lee returned to Bridgeton to teach in the one-room school she had attended as a child. A talented artist, who studied at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, I she also gave art lessons in the house. On October 1, 1896, she married William R. Gentry of Columbia. They had one son (William Richard Gentry, Jr.). On April 6, 1901, from complications resulting from the birth of a second child (Mary Elizabeth), Mary Lee Gentry died.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Payne-Gentry House is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Society."

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PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

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FOOTNOTES

- 1. Interview with Mrs. Doris Baruzzini and Mrs. Juanita Brookman, Bridgeton Historical Commission, Bridgeton, Missouri, September 17, 1976.
- 2. Erma E. Penning and Mary Lee Patten (compilors), <u>Burials in Fee Fee Cemetery</u>, <u>Bridgeton</u>, <u>Missouri (1722-1961)</u> (November 1961), p. 43; and Historical Commission of the City of Bridgeton, <u>Missouri</u>, <u>Bridgeton Since 1794</u> (1968), p. 37.
- 3. <u>Bridgeton Since 1794</u>, p. 37; and "Payne-Gentry House" (informational brochure available at the house).
- 4. Bridgeton Since 1794, pp.37-38; and Penning and Patten, p. 43.
- 5. Bridgeton Since 1794, p. 38; and Penning and Patten, p. 43.
- 6. Ibid.
- 7. "Payne-Gentry House" (informational brochure available at the house); and <u>Bridgeton Since 1794</u>, p. 38.
- 8. Penning and Patten, p. 43; and Bridgeton Since 1794, p. 38.
- 9. Ibid.; and "Payne-Gentry House" (informational brochure available at the house).
- 10. Interview with Mrs. Doris Baruzzini and Mrs. Juanita Brookman, September 17, 1976; "Payne-Gentry House" (informational brochure available at the house); and <u>Bridgeton Since 1794</u>, p. 38.
- 11. "Payne-Gentry House" (informational brochure available at the house); and <u>Bridgeton</u> Since 1794, p. 38.
- 12. Centennial History of Missouri (The Center State): One Hundred Years in the Union (1820-1921), Vol. IV (St. Louis and Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921), p. 800; History of Missouri: Family and Personal History, Vol. III (New York and West Palm Beach: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1967), p. 547; and Bridgeton Since 1794, p. 38.
- 13. "Payne-Gentry House" (informational brochure available at the house); Bridgeton Since 1794, p. 38; Centennial History of Missouri (The Center State): One Hundred Years in the Union (1820-1921), Vol. IV, p. 800; The History of Missouri: Family and Personal History, Vol. III, p. 547; and Penning and Patten, p. 43.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The Payne-Gentry House is significant to the local architectural heritage of Bridgeton, Missouri for the following reasons:

- 1. The house is over 100 years old and has survived in near original condition. Although the glazed transom over the entry door and the brick voussoirs and stone lugsills have a certain Missouri-German flavor, suggesting perhaps the ethnic origins of the contractor, the house is basically a vernacular Victorian-era house, important as an excellent and well preserved representative of its type.
- 2. A 1978-1979 survey by the Bridgeton Historical Commission, with matching funds from the Department of Interior, of approximately 100 buildings reveals the Payne-Gentry House to play a unique role in the architectural patrimony of this area. Of 22 houses of the same period 1865-1890, most are 2 story frame farmhouses. Of four one story cottages from this period, one is frame, the other three are brick. Of these the most significant is the Kruger House, a 1 1/2 story Missouri-German framhouse which is now vacant and deteriorating. Given the fact that Bridgeton lacks any concentration of historic structures sufficient enough to merit historic district designation, and that the area has become highly suburbanized, the Payne-Gentry House takes on increasing importance as being unique in its local setting. There are no other Victorian-era middle class cottages of its time period in the area, and certainly none which have survived in such near-original condition.
- 3. The significance of the house is further enhanced by its setting. As a part of an approximately 25 acre public park, it's rural-like setting amongst large trees gives the Payne-Gentry House an ambiance not found elsewhere in the Bridgeton area.
- 4. The house is significant as a focal point for community preservation activity. The City of Bridgeton purchased and restored the building under the supervision of a professional restoration architect, William B. Lane, and volunteers from the community contributed their efforts to the successful realization of the project. The architectural integrity of the house, which is due largely to the fact that the house remained in the same family for almost 100 years from its construction to City acquisition in 1968, has resulted in a property which contains many original furnishings, including the doctor's office. The personal lore contained in Mary Lee Payne's diary of 1889-1891-1892 helps to further enliven the sense of ambience. The Payne-Gentry House, therefore, offers area residents a unique opportunity to experience a house and furnishings typical of the late 19th century. It serves as an example of sensitive restoration and is a source of local pride for the citizens of Bridgeton and St. Louis County. National Register designation will enhance this sense of pride and will help further Missouri's historic preservation efforts.

9	MA	OR	BIBLIOGR	APHICAL	REFERENCES
	* * * *		~~~~~~		

٦.	Baruzzini,	Mrs.	Doris,	and Brook	man, Mrs.	Juanit	ta, Br	idgeton	Historical	Commission
	Bridgeton,	Miss	ouri. 🗀	Interview,	, Septembe	r 17, i	1976.			

2.	Centenn <u>ia</u> l	History	of	Missouri	(The	Center	State	e):	0ne	Hundred	Years	in th	ne Union
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	9	PAGE	7		
						

- 3. <u>Diary of Mary Elizabeth Payne 1864-1868</u>. Bridgeton, Missouri: City of Bridgeton, Missouri, 1975.
- 4. <u>Diary of Mary Lee Payne 1889-1891-1892</u>. Bridgeton, Missouri: City of Bridgeton, Missouri, 1975.
- 5. Flannery, Toni. <u>History Trail</u>. St. Louis: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., 1973, p. 18.
- 6. Historical Commission of the City of Bridgeton, Missouri. <u>Bridgeton Since 1794</u>. 1968, pp. 37-40.
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- 8. Johnson, Berkley E. An Atlas of St. Louis County in the State of Missouri. Clayton, Missouri: C. R. Black, 1893, p. 19.
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- 11. Plat Book of St. Louis County, Missouri. Des Moines, Iowa: Northwest Publishing Co., 1909, pp. 42-43.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

North 68°50' West, 165.48 feet to a point; thence North 15°10' East, 250.00 feet to a point on the North line of aforementioned tract of City of Bridgeton, Missouri (being also the South line of a tract conveyed to St. Louis County, Missouri by deed recorded in Book 4353, Page 540 of the St. Louis County Records); thence along said line, North 73°32' East, 113.29 feet to the point of beginning, said tract having an area of 1.048 acres.

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
East facade; view looking west with the south wing to the left and the north wing to the center portion (center). photographer: Frederick J. Breme February 25, 1977 Bridgeton, Missouri PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

... V. P. D. Sheet Protector MY. 11.

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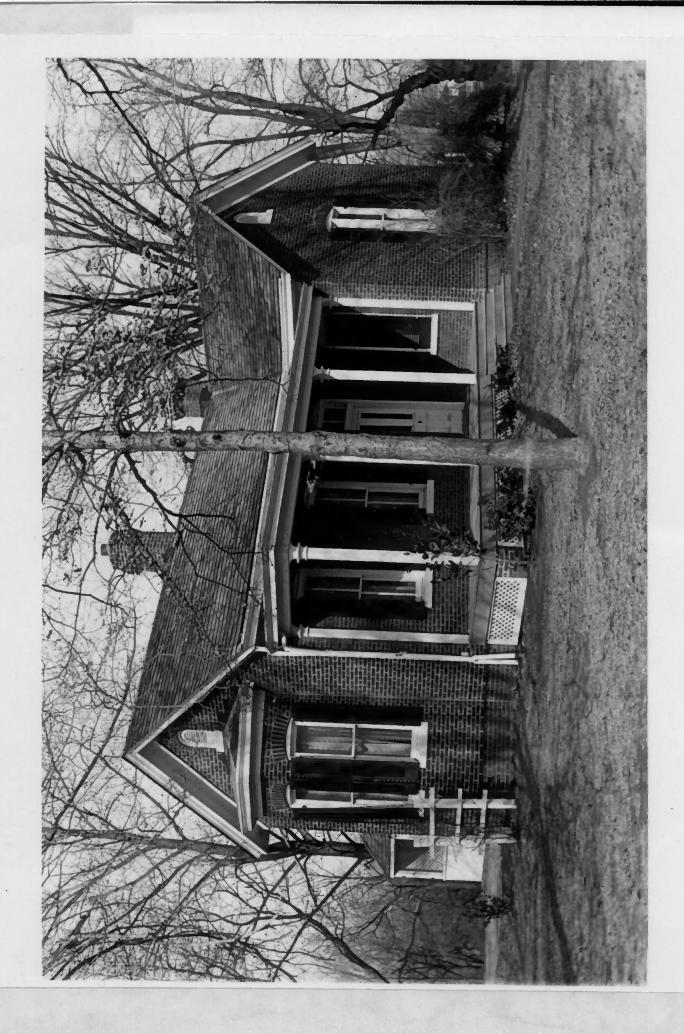
PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

Bridgeton, Missouri
photographer: Frederick J. Breme
February 25, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department
of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176

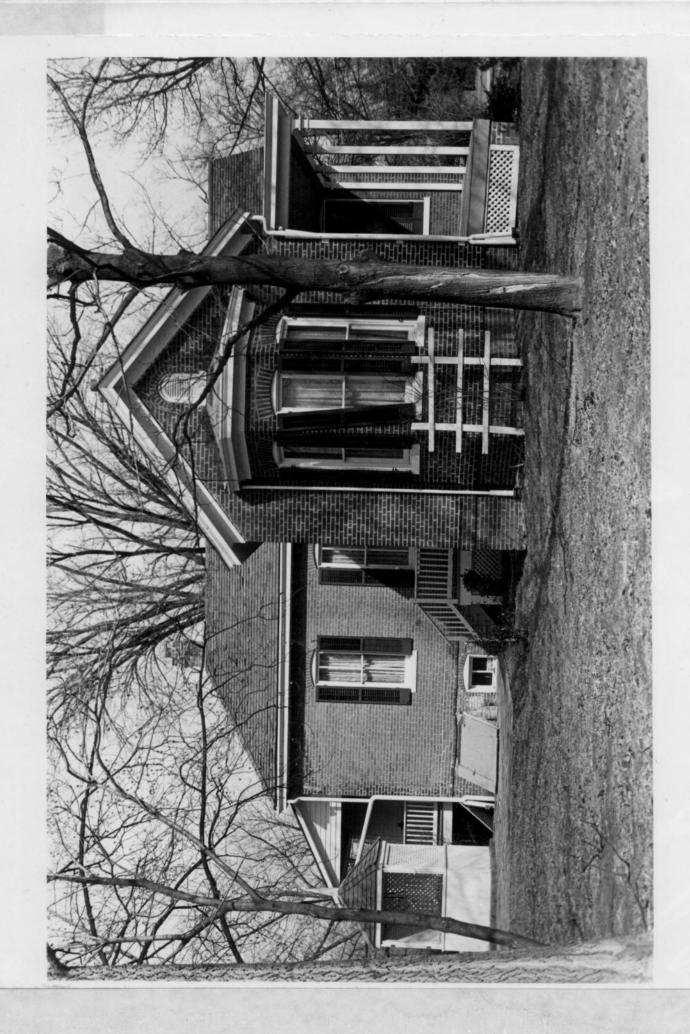
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Southeast corner; view looking northwest
with the south wing in the foreground (left)
and the center portion in the background
(right).



Bridgeton, Missouri photographer: Frederick J. Breme February 25, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 South facade; view looking north with the south wing in the foreground and the center portion in the background.



MY-111...

PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE Bridgeton, Missouri

photographer: Frederick J. Breme February 25, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Southwest corner; view looking northeast with the south wing on the right and the center portion and north wing on the left. The frame west addition spans the west facat facades of the center portion & north wing.

1



#5

Bridgeton, Missouri

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176 photographer: Frederick J. Breme February 25, 1977

with the west addition in the foreground and the north wing (left) and center Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 West facade; view looking east-southeast portion (right) in the

wing and the west facade of the south wing are at the extreme left and right respecbackground. The north facade of the north tively.



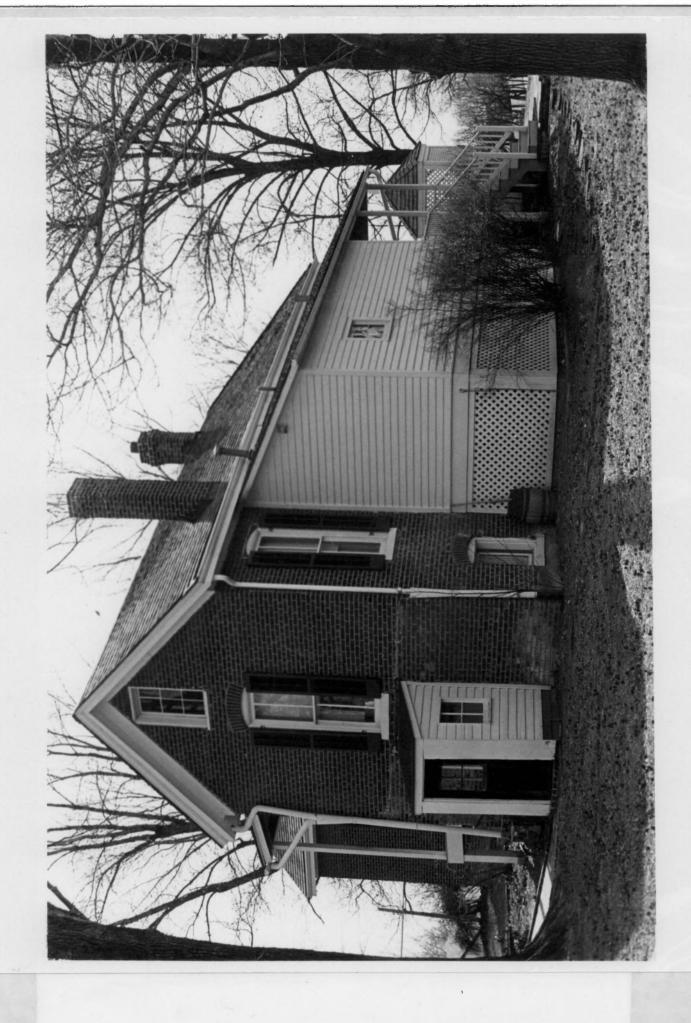
Bridgeton, Missouri

photographer: Frederick J. Breme February 25, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Northwest corner; view looking southeast with the north facade of the north wing on the left and the west facade of the north wing on the right. The west addition and a section of the north facade of the center

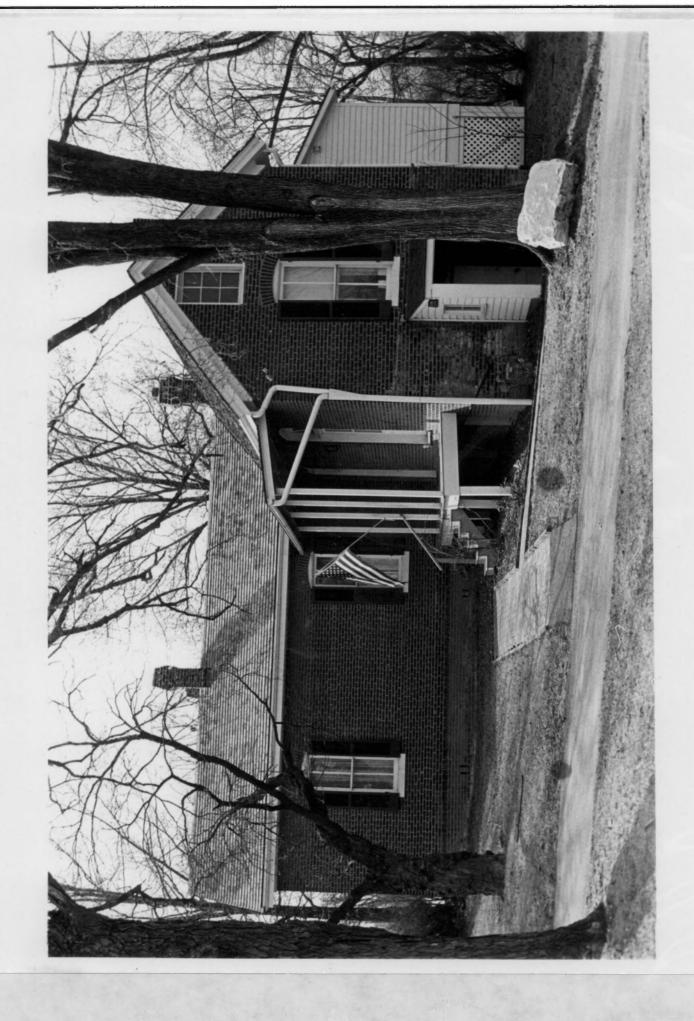
portion are to the right and left of the north wing respectively.

9#



Bridgeton, Missouri photographer: Frederick J. Breme February 25, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 North facade; view looking south-southwest with the center portion on the left and the north wing and adjoining west addition on the right.



Bridgeton, Missouri

photographer: Frederick J. Breme February 25, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Interior view showing the basement-story office of Dr. Will Payne. Equipment used by Payne is on display.



PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE
Bridgeton, Missouri
Bridgeton, Missouri
photographer: Frederick J. Breme
February 25, 1977
Office of Historic Preservation, Department
of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Interior view of the front bedroom of the
center portion. The furniture (original
to the house) was a wedding gift to Mary
Lee Gentry from her brother.



01#

Bridgeton, Missouri photographer: unknown PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE

Ca.
Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Old view of the Payne-Gentry House from ca.

